

“CURSED WITH A CURSE”
MALACHI 3:9

INTRO: Recently we had the opportunity to study what the Bible has to say about TITHING. We learned clearly that WHEN WE TITHE, **GOD BLESSES US GREATLY!** But that is only a half of the lesson we need to learn about the tithe. THE OTHER HALF of the lesson is that WHEN WE REFUSE TO TITHE, **GOD CURSES US GREATLY!** In light of that, please allow me to give you a very serious but real fact. **IF YOU ARE NOT TITHING NOW, YOU ARE CURRENTLY UNDER THE CURSE OF GOD! WHY? BECAUSE NOT TITHING IS ROBBING GOD! (VS. 8).**

QUESTION: WHY IS NOT TITHING ROBBING GOD?

ANSWER: BECAUSE THE TITHE BELONGS TO GOD AND THUS TO USE IT FOR “PERSONAL GAIN” IS ROBBING GOD OF THAT WHICH RIGHTFULLY BELONGS TO HIM – LEVITICUS 27:30-32.

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I. ISRAEL AND THE CURSE OF GOD

NOTE: In robbing God by refusing to tithe Israel was NOT FULFILLING their part of the covenant they made with God to tithe. Therefore the Lord could not FULFILL His part of the covenant to bless them.

-Note Leviticus 26:3 ff

- A. We must be reminded that THE TITHE ALWAYS HAS BELONGED TO GOD – Leviticus 27:30-32.
- B. Israel’s refusal to tithe liberally robbed God of what was His own.
- C. Because Israel robbed God, God could not bless them but rather, in order to maintain His integrity, had to bring a curse upon them. The sad fact is that Israel knew this would happen – Deut. 28: 1-66; Leviticus 26:1-46.
- D. The curse of God upon Israel brought the havoc of disease, famine, the loss of their fruit and trouble with other nations – Vss. 11,12
- E. Because Israel was not TITHING they had NOTHING to show for their labor – Haggai 1:6.

ILLUSTRATION:

II. THE CHRISTIAN AND THE CURSE OF GOD

- A. Tithing has not been taken away from God’s expectation for His children. IT STILL BELONGS TO GOD!
- B. The spiritual principle behind the TITHE for the Christian is clearly seen in Luke 6:38 and 2 Corinthians 9:6-8.
- C. When we do not TITHE not only are we robbing God, but we are ROBBING OURSELVES of God’s blessing and HIS CURSE IS REALIZED UPON US! That is, the reverse of 2 Corinthians 9:6-15 is experienced!
- D. When we DO NOT TITHE the money that rightfully belongs to God that is kept for personal “gain” **NEVER STAYS WITH US!** It ends up going to the doctor, the mechanic, the tax collector, etc. Cp. Haggai 1:6

ILLUSTRATION:

SERIOUS LESSONS TO LEARN:

- 1) Refusing to tithe is disobedience to God (SIN).
- 2) Refusing to tithe is foolish because we know we will not only miss out on God’s blessing but will experience His curse upon us.
- 3) Refusing to tithe is a tremendous lack of faith on our part and God is not pleased.
- 4) Refusing to tithe hinders the work of the local church tremendously.
- 5) Refusing to tithe disrupts individuals and families in so many ways known only to God.
- 6) Refusing to tithe is a “Satanic mind set” for the Christian.
- 7) Refusing to tithe will prevent the Christian from being what God wants him to be.
- 8) Refusing to tithe causes the Christian to miss out on God’s extreme blessing.
- 9) Refusing to tithe is an act of selfishness and greed.
- 10) Refusing to tithe opens the door for Satan to do more work in our lives, our church and the world around us.
- 11) Refusing to tithe is an act of distrusting and not believing God. It is calling God a virtual liar.